



PUBLIC HEALTH

**ALWAYS WORKING FOR A SAFER AND
HEALTHIER WASHINGTON**

Regulation of Lead in Washington
November 10, 2004

Two types of regulated systems:

- Group A – large systems
 - 15 or more connections
- Group B – small systems
 - 2-14 connections

Drinking Water Oversight

- EPA – Group A only
- DOH – Group A & Group B

Key Drinking Water Contaminants

- Antimony
- Arsenic
- Asbestos
- Bacteria
- Barium
- Beryllium
- Cadmium
- Chromium
- Copper
- Cyanide
- Disinfection byproducts
- Fluoride
- Lead
- Mercury
- Selenium
- Silver
- Nitrate
- Nitrite
- Pesticides
- Petroleum
- Radium
- Selenium
- Sodium
- Solvents
- Thallium
- Uranium
- Varnishes

Monitoring

- Utilities test water for contaminants
- Labs report test results to DOH
- If contaminants are found, DOH assures:
 - System is fixed
 - Public is notified

Lead in Drinking Water - Sources

- Lead in distribution pipes
- Lead in source water
- Lead from building plumbing

Lead & Copper Rule - 1991

- Intended to identify water systems with **highly corrosive water**.
- Lead “action level” = 15 ppb.

Monitoring for Lead

- Samples from volunteer's homes
 - Ideally built from 1982-87
 - Homeowners use sampling kits
- If more than 10 percent of homes exceed action level...
- Utility must control corrosion

Lead Contamination Control Act of 1988 (LCCA) – Goals:

- Identify & remove water coolers w/ lead parts
- Ban manufacture and sale of water coolers that are not “lead-free”
- Identify & resolve lead problems in school and daycare drinking water

School monitoring & notification

- School lead testing is **recommended** but not required
- EPA **recommends** follow-up testing for lead levels greater than 20 ppb
- **If** schools test, they are required to make results available to parents

Gov. Locke's funding for schools (2004)

- Funds available: \$750,000 – one-time only
- DOH is coordinating with OSPI to fund
- Funds available mid-November
- Covers 75 percent of testing costs

Gov's school funding, continued...

- Public elementary schools are eligible
- Testing must occur from 9-03 to 5-05
- Program is voluntary
- Materials for schools are available now

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